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Liberia Media Development (LMD) Program

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Narrative Report

Quarter Two, Year Four:

January 1 – March 31, 2019

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List of Acronyms

| | |
|---------|---|
| ADR | Alternative Dispute Resolution |
| AL-L | Accountability Lab, Liberia |
| A M&E P | Activity Monitoring & Evaluation Plan |
| ALICOR | Association of Liberian Community Radios |
| AO | Agreement Officer |
| AOR | Agreement Officer's Representative |
| CEMESP | Center for Media Studies and Peace-building |
| CENTAL | Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia |
| CLEAR | Citizens of Liberia Engaged to Advanced Electoral Reform |
| CMF | Community Media Forums |
| COP | Chief of Party |
| CRA | Community Radio Advisor |
| CRS | Community Radio Station |
| CSDF | County Social Development Fund |
| CSO | Civil Society Organization |
| DCOP | Deputy Chief of Party |
| DQA | Data Quality Assessment |
| ECOWAS | Economic Community of West African States |
| FeJAL | Female Journalists Association of Liberia |
| FOI | Freedom of Information |
| GoL | Government of Liberia |
| HR | Human Resources |
| ICT | Information and Communication Technology |
| IIC | Independent Information Commission |
| INGO | International Non-Government Organization |
| IREDD | Institute for Research and Democratic Development |
| LACC | Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission |
| LAVI | Liberia Accountability and Voice Initiative |
| LBS | Liberia Broadcasting System |
| LEITI | Liberia Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative |
| LMBMA | Liberia Media Budget Monitoring for Accountability |
| LMC | Liberia Media Center |
| LMD | Liberia Media Development Program |
| LMDI | Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives |
| LAGSL | Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law |
| LPAC | Legal Professional Development & Anti-Corruption Activity |
| LRA | Liberia Revenue Authority |
| LSP | Legislative Support Project |
| LTA | Liberia Telecommunications Authority |
| LVL | Local Voices Liberia |
| M&E | Monitoring and Evaluation |
| MRC | Media Resource Center |
| MSI | Media Sustainability Index |
| NMC | National Media Council |
| NEC | National Elections Commission |
| NGO | Non-Governmental Organization |
| PUL | Press Union of Liberia |
| ToT | Training of Trainers |
| UNMIL | United Nations Mission in Liberia |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| YMA | Youth Media Action |

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SECTION 1: Executive Summary

1. Program Overview

The Liberia Media Development (LMD) program enables, equips and empowers local media in Liberia to access the tools and knowledge that will increase their sustainability, incorporate a plurality of voices in their media products, and improve their professional skills and standards.

The work of LMD enhances democracy building through improved access to information and forums for dialogue between citizens, community leaders and government. This includes supporting local media and citizens to advocate for, and achieve, a strengthened legal enabling environment for media. The program also supports the Independent Information Commission (IIC) and government public information actors by providing it with the tools and resources to respond transparently to information requests from citizens and media institutions.

Activities proposed in the program advance the goal of increasing Liberians' access to independent, reliable information, enabling Liberians to engage in well-informed public discussion of important issues of the day to benefit the democratic development of the nation.

This will have the effect of creating well-informed citizens who are better able to make decisions and take effective action on issues that affect their daily lives. The LMD program approach focuses on innovation and local ownership.

2. Implementation Overview

This report details activities implemented by Internews during **LMD Year Four Quarter Two: January 1- March 31, 2019**. Here are some key achievements:

Objective 1: Increased sustainability of media houses

- University students studying business and communications courses have found GeoPoll's media ratings for Liberia quite useful. The ratings were released to the public for the first time in December at the **2018 Media Market Day**. During the quarter, students started to request for the ratings as part of **academic research work for graduation**. As more students are aware of the availability of such vital data, Internews expects an increase in request.
- LMD conducted a **two-day coaching session with Liberia Media Center (LMC) business trainers** – focusing on using the GeoPoll audience data as a tool to enhance financial sustainability of media outlets. The session also covered a coaching session on business plan implementation.
- Voice of Rural Montserrado and Radio Harlengee (Lofa) moved their stations to more **business-friendly locations without asking for external funding**. Managements and boards are beginning to take more ownership of their stations than previously when they depended entirely on donor funds.
- Through the LMD media hackathons and follow-on advice and mentoring, Internews has helped local media institutions to start to look at **online media opportunities to enhance their audiences and income**. This is crucial for Liberia's leading traditional media outlets to remain at the peak of the game - staying up-to-date with technological changes in both media production and audience consumption patterns. Due to the rapid uptake of Facebook in Liberia and increasing access to the internet, media partners need

to get ahead of the curve in exponential growth of citizen access to online media. The LMD follow-up activities to the Hackathon have included one-on-one mentoring and technical advice to partners able to grasp the online media opportunities. It also focuses on showing them how to utilize and track their online audiences through web analytics, Facebook, and YouTube. The ultimate objective of these activities is to make some income online. Media institutions in Liberia are beginning to realize that online platforms are untapped opportunities.

- During this reporting period, Internews provided specialized training for media partners to lead activities under Citizens of Liberia Engaged to Advanced Electoral Reform (CLEAR). **Bush Chicken, Daily Observer, LMC, LMDI, Local Voices, FeJal and YMA participated in training of trainers** that enhanced their existing knowledge and skills, which gave them comparative edge as leaders in Liberia's media sector.
- **Daily Talk** is now in full swing – thanks to LMD support in refurbishing the unconventional chalkboard news outlet after it was damaged last year by an unknown vehicle. Because of an Internews story on the re-launch of Daily Talk, the Communication and Development course at [Temple University in Philadelphia and a humanitarian journalism course at Villanova University](#) included the role of the Daily Talk as a case study for citizen engagement using unconventional communications and media tools.
- Internews also held a one-day training for LMD partners on **implementing, managing and reporting subgrant activities** – focusing on procedures, rules and regulations surrounding the use of USG funds to ensure compliance. The training is part of Internews ongoing efforts to improve the operational efficiency of our local partners, in-line with the USAID Mission Director messaging at an Implementing Partners meeting.
- Two partner radio stations benefitted from LMD equipment support - **a new generator** for Radio Dukpa in Grand Bassa and **an antenna for** Radio Piso in Grand Cape Mount. The equipment will enhance the stations' broadcast operations - quality and coverage.

Objective 2: A plurality of voices is represented in Liberia media

- The planning and roll out of the first of **Thirty CLEAR Community Media Forums** began this quarter. The Community Media forums (CMFs) have been designed to engage citizens on electoral reform issues and have been informed by the Liberia Accountability and Voice Initiative (LAVI) PAE, Internews baseline research on media content and citizen's perception of electoral reform, as well as by Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC), EU and National Elections Commission (NEC) recommendations. This quarter, LMD awarded a subgrant to the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives (LMDI) and hired veteran radio personality Torwon Solunteh-Browne to conduct the CMFs. A technical working session was held at LMDI with partners to develop acceptable themes for the CMFs.
- **Thirty-one (31) reporters (26M, 5F)** from Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland, and Grand Kru counties benefited from **two regional journalism trainings on electoral reform**. Their reports, from rural perspectives, will contribute to national discourse on electoral reform.

- Two separate meetings were held with the Press & Public Affairs Bureau of the Liberian House of Representatives and Daily Observer newspaper over series of activities geared toward populating and popularizing the **LMD-sponsored Elections Promises Tracker**, developed out the 2017 legislative elections.

LMD will support the Press Bureau to provide training to lawmakers' office chiefs of staff, resource officers and district coordinators as part of effort towards not only educating lawmakers on the importance of the tracker, but also to increase the pool of people generating verifiable information for the portal.

Internews will work around providing equipment and material support that will ensure the promises tracker remains viable and a trusted source of information empowering citizens to participate in governance and democracy conversations.

- Two intensive trainings were delivered to build the institutional capacity of six **Youth Media Action (YMA) staff to be able to train Press Clubs in schools**. First, a two-day intensive training to develop training curriculum for press clubs. The curriculum is the first of its kind in Liberia. It includes modules on Basic Journalism, Facebook Journalism, Fake News/Misinformation and Freedom of Information, Electoral Reform Reporting and Public Finance Reporting that focuses on CSDF - all simplified and tailored for high school students.
- The Liberia Media Center coded **1,337 pieces of** content from print and electronic media from Sky FM, Radio Maria-Fabric FM, Power FM, ELBC FrontPage Africa, Daily Observer, New Dawn, New Democrat, and The News newspapers.

Objective 3: Professionalism of the media is improved

- **Professional development training** was a focus this quarter rather than basic trainings indicating progress LMD has made in the professional development of media. In total, LMD has delivered 464 training days.
- **A three-day ToT was held at LMC to swing CLEAR into action**. Twenty-four (24) participants from six partner organizations acquired new knowledge about electoral reform in Liberia. They also gained enhanced facilitation skills.
- After walking the YMA team through development of modules on Basic Journalism, Facebook Journalism, Fake News and Freedom of Information, Electoral Reform Reporting and Public Finance Reporting for Press Clubs, LMD delivered an intensive **ToT for ten YMA staff** helping them finesse draft training modules. YMA also gained effective training and facilitation skills. Through this training **YMA staff themselves developed training content into PowerPoint presentations**.
- LMC trainers **covered six counties** in hard-to-reach south-eastern Liberia – providing **in-house training** and mentoring at community radio stations on electoral reform – benefitting 40 reporters from Maryland, Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh, River-Gee, Sinoe, and River Cess counties. These 30 reporters did not include CLEAR journalism fellows.
- Also, under CLEAR, Internews conducted **three days intensive training for 20 journalists**, including 16 CLEAR fellows, selected from radio, print and online media outlets across Liberia. The goal was to make CLEAR fellows leading electoral reform

reporters. It is anticipated that the 16 fellows will produce at least five stories each on electoral reform - totaling eighty (80) stories.

- Apart from the journalism fellowship program, Internews is also collaborating with the LMC to **deliver four regional workshops** on electoral reform reporting. The initiative is targeting sixty (60) journalists in addition to the 16 fellows.

This quarter, two regional trainings were held in Grand Gedeh and Nimba counties for 31 reporters from 29 radio stations, only 10 of which are LMD partners. Participants of both regional workshops are currently pursuing story ideas. Reporters will receive direct mentoring support from LMD staff in story development.

- **LMD supported the YMCA and MRC's relocation.** All assets were safely moved to a new improved premises. All technical works including air conditioning and computer installation have been completed and are working perfectly.

So, far, **1,203** visits in total have been recorded at the center. Visitors benefitted from various trainings such as introduction to basic computer office applications, system navigation, computer report writing, audio editing, internet browsing, and research; and news report filing, among others. Users of the MRC include rural and citizen journalists, students, youths, civil society organizations, among others.

- Local Voices saw an increase in its Facebook following by at least **50% - from 7000 to over 11,000** - because of the **2018 LMD Hackathon follow-up mentoring**. LMD made a small investment of \$200 to promote the page, especially to increase following for USAID Development Matters podcasts.
- Following their participation in the LMD 2018 Online Business Hackathon, Sky TV/Radio are making significant progress with their Facebook presence as a first timer. Its popular talk show **50/50** is now broadcasting live on Facebook. One live broadcast with Representative Yekeh Kolubah currently has over **1,400 Comments and 27k Views**. One broadcast alone had 775 Shares and 460 Reactions. Here is the link: https://www.facebook.com/Sky-Fm-Liberia-267904517254840/?ref=br_rs.
- Daily Observer newspaper has now increased its online revenue by **57%** - thanks to Hackathon follow-up technical advice from LMD consultant Kpetermeni T. Siakor.
- For the second quarter running, the **LMD Drop-In Facility** remains open to partners. Bush Chicken, LVL and the YMA continues to use it for media work as needed and they also make the most of access to LMD staff for technical advice on program activities.

Objective 4: Strengthened normative-legal enabling environment for freer media

- On Internews' request, the **Liberia Strategic Analysis (LSA)** in March produced maps of key population centers to enable LMD to provide technical advice to the **Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA)** on its FM broadcast license regulation process. The maps offer a "data-visualization" tool depicting several scenarios of population size being the organizing principle for a national spectrum management plan yet to be developed by the LTA. The purpose of the map is to help the LTA and stakeholders view spectrum management of available broadcast frequencies in the context of citizen's information needs, rather than issuing licenses on a first come first

dressed basis. These maps will be presented at a second key stakeholders meeting on the draft FM broadcast license regulations in April.

- A **one-day FM Radio Regs stakeholder engagement was held in March**, attended by 29 participants, including LTA's chair Irvin Browne. Attending were Deputy information minister for technical services, Boakai M. Fofana and others from the Ministry of Information, Culture Affairs and Tourism (MICAT), LMD program staff, Judge Eva Mappy-Morgan of the commercial court, representative from the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), heads of media institutions, journalists, among others.
- President George M. Weah finally signed into law the **Kamara Abdullah Kamara (KAK) Act of Press Freedom**. The newly signed Act amends Chapter 11 sections 11.11, 11.12 & 11.14 of the penal law of Liberia aimed at decriminalizing defamation. The president's signing follows a unanimous vote by the Liberian Senate February 7, 2019.
- Internews worked with **Liberia's Judiciary** to plan **two specialized trainings** that will reduce the chances of journalists coming in conflict with the law. The **specialized judicial reporting training for journalists** will expose them to everything about the Liberian judicial and court systems, hence reducing the chances of conflict with the law. The training targets around **30 journalists and public information officers**. LMD conducted a training needs assessment.

A second set of specialized training will be held for **public defenders** at the Judiciary, which will enhance lawyers' knowledge about the role of the media, and significantly introduce them to media law as a new field in Liberia. The training is utilizing a media law curriculum, which the LMD worked with the **University of Liberia's Louis Arthur Grimes School of Law** to develop.

- The **National Media Council (NCM)** received two complaints on the performance of journalists during the period. The Council intervened in both complaints; successfully mediated one and is still hearing the other.
- While the NCM is succeeding to amicably resolve conflicts in the media, the Press Union of Liberia (**PUL**) **continues to systematically trace attacks**, direct and/or indirect, against journalists and the media. There were seven major attacks against the media recorded.

Objective 5: Strengthened Information Commission

- Internews co-sponsored Cllr. M. Bedor-Wla Freeman, chairman of the Independent Information Commission (IIC) of Liberia to attend the **11th International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) in South Africa** – where he was named to the five-member steering committee of the newly formed Network of Information Commissioners of Africa – thanks to the lobbying support of another LMD partner, Center for Media Studies and Peacebuilding (CEMESP).
- The **Center for Transparency & Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL)** held a mentoring session with **four journalists and two of its staff**. The reporters will produce stories on the County Social Development Funds (CSDF) using the Freedom of Information (FOI).

- Senior program staff from the LMD, LAVI and LEGIT convened a meeting at LAVI's office to discuss plans for the holding of **three regional seminars in Nimba, Bong and Grand Gedeh** counties on the CSDF and Freedom of Information (FOI). The seminars will discuss issues around CSDF and how FOI can be used as an effective tool to empower citizens with useful information that will allow informed participation in national conversations around democracy, rights and governance.
- Internews submitted its existing **FOI Request Tracker to CEMESP**. The tracker was developed two years ago as part of **LMD Freedom of Information Investigative & Mentoring activity**. CEMESP started to review the tracker and developed a draft plan of action. In the next quarter, CEMESP will begin to liaise with Public Information Officers (PIOs), journalists and public offices on the status of previously filed FOI requests; and potentially coordinate responses.
- LMD and CENTAL developed the first the draft of an **exclusive online tracker on CSDF** to improve the transparency of CSDF funds. It will be embedded on the existing web portal, focusing on national budget information. Developers are currently working on the site to include the tracker, so there might be intermittent technical glitches.

SECTION 2: Progress Report on Administrative Activities

Administration

The LMD regional office relocated from USAID LEGIT's office to the Media Resource Center (MRC) housed at the Young Mens Christian Association (YMCA) Ganta office. In 2017, LEGIT provided office space for the LMD to coordinate its activities in Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Grand Gedeh and River Gee counties as part of collaboration between the two USAID funded programs.

In this quarter the LEGIT office closed, and the YMCA found a better venue in Ganta to operate from. LMD supported the relocation of YMCA; the MRC facilities and the new Community Radio Advisor (CRA) appointed in January are now based there daily. The relocation of the LEGIT office and YMCA has led to greater coordination between CRA and management of the MRC, including enhanced communication and planning.

Human Resources

LMD program staff from January 24-25 benefited from a training of trainers (TOT) led by Internews media Development Advisor Arwen Kidd on how to maximize Facebook design and analytics and other low-cost online tools to build their audiences and enhance content sharing. This training was remotely facilitated and equipped the LMD team with necessary skills to transfer knowledge to LMD partners, which will in turn increase audiences, enhance audience engagement and open potential for revenue growth.

Internews hired Mr. Armstrong Bee as CRA to replace Jefferson Massah, who was promoted and assigned in Monrovia to lead CLEAR activities. Both Massah and Bee were in Ganta to facilitate a formal transitioning and takeover. Massah also provided orientation on the tasks required. In his new role, Bee will coordinate LMD activities with eight partner community radio stations in Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Grand Gedeh and River Gee Counties. He will also liaise with the management of the MRC in Ganta to continue providing free ICT services to journalists, students, civil society organizations and the public.

Collaboration with other USAID IPs

In February, Internews staff held several meetings with the LAVI elections team and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) on the ECC conference on electoral reform. The meeting aimed at building synergies with other USAID funded partners in the implementation of CLEAR. The meeting culminated in reporters under the LMD CLEAR fellowship providing extensive coverage of the ECC conference.

Here are links to some stories published from the ECC conference:

- **FrontPage Africa newspaper:** <https://frontpageafricaonline.com/politics/ecc-holds-national-conference-on-electoral-reform-in-liberia/>
- **Daily Observer newspaper -** <https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/ecc-usaid-hold-natl-conference-on-electoral-reform-today/>.

LMD electoral reform fellows were responsible for the Daily Observer story.

Seven LMD-supported journalists attended the ECC conference from Daily Observer, Bush Chicken, Local Voices, New Republic and Inquirer newspapers. The presence of these

journalists at such high-level national policy reform conference bordering on electoral issues was a perfect opportunity for them to gain an additional degree of exposure on reporting policy issues.

In addition, the LMD coordinated a meeting with USAID, LAVI, NEC, NDI and the ECC at LAVI's office to finalize key messages for the CMFs, which begins next quarter. Information sharing will be key to ensure no conflict in consultation meetings and the CMFs as well as to enable accurate reporting of electoral reform activities under CLEAR.

LMD also continued collaboration with the USAID LEGIT program in planning regional CSDF & FOI workshops with LAVI, as well as with the USAID LSA program in the distribution and promotion of the Developments Matters radio and TV programs.

SECTION 3: Progress on Implementation of Activities

This section details the progress of activities outlined in the **LMD Annual Work Plan for Year Four**. The activities outlined below were delivered in **Quarter Two (January – March 2019)**.

Objective One: Increased sustainability of media houses

Activity 1.1 Facilitate deeper audience data analysis

The audience data analysis, launched by Internews in March 2016, continues to help media institutions understand their consumers, and the business of broadcast media. Internews has reduced the frequency of the GeoPoll ratings to bi-annually. No survey was conducted this quarter. The next survey is scheduled for April 2019. Interested partners, however, continue to utilise the wealth of data collected by GeoPoll over the life of the LMD program.

University students studying business or communications reached out to Internews for media ratings released last quarter at the 2018 Media Market Day. For example, Wilvina Dweh studies communications at the African Methodist University in Monrovia. She led colleagues to request for the ratings as part of academic research work for graduation. As more students become aware of the availability of such vital data, Internews expects an increase in request for the ratings.

Broadcasters are also increasingly asking for this data as they slowly begin to improve their marketing knowledge and tools, and as donor funds diminish, leading media to look to diversify income sources further afield.

Activity 1.2 Conduct periodic market research

As indicated above, GeoPoll did not conduct any survey this quarter (**Activity 1.1**). In 2018, GeoPoll implemented two nationally representative media measurement surveys - **sampling 2,800 Liberians** over the age of 15 every four hours over a seven-day period.

Activity 1.3 Provide business management training and work with media outlets to develop alternative revenue streams

LMD Media Business Strategy Advisor, who is also its Deputy Chief of Party, conducted a two-day coaching session with LMC business trainers – focusing on using audience data as a tool to enhance financial sustainability of media outlets. The session also covered a coaching session on business plan implementation.

After the session, LMC business trainers set out for the field where they conducted business mentoring to partner media outlets. Ten outlets were assisted by LMC business trainers to implement their work plans.

Many stations are adopting sustainability action plans, which involve among other things expanding their revenue base and improving efficiency on current resources.

Two of the stations, Voice of Rural Montserrado (VRM) and Radio Harlengee (Lofa) have moved their stations to more business-friendly locations without asking for external funding. The management and boards are beginning to take more ownership of their stations than previously when they entirely depended on donor funds for everything.

VRM is seeing increase in its revenue intake because of the station's relocation at Mount Barclay four months ago. VRM relocated from Bentol last year due to poor business activities.

The station is now accessible to lots of business opportunities that will boost its revenue stream and enable management to raise funds for the daily operational cost. The station remains committed to information dissemination for rural dwellers in Montserrado County.

During the quarter, Kpetermeni T. Siakor, the consultant appointed by Internews to work with the Daily Observer newspaper as part of post-Hackathon support, released a progress report indicating significant technical improvements to the Observers' online platform. Mr. Siakor has worked with the Daily Observer to enhance its website and online presence - alternating approaches with display ads weekly to determine which configuration has the highest earnings for the entity. Now, Daily Observer newspaper has increased its online revenue by **57% (Activity 3.6)**.

Media institutions in Liberia are beginning to realize that online platforms are untapped opportunities. Through the media hackathon, Internews and partners are helping the local media institutions utilize and track their online audiences through platforms such as website analytics Facebook, and YouTube and ultimately make some income online – **See Activity 3.6**.

Activity 1.4 Provide expert assistance to the UNMIL Radio Transition

During the reporting period, two radio producers at ECOWAS Radio resigned to pursue other professional opportunities. ECOWAS Radio announced that the producers initially worked at UNMIL Radio for about 13 years until its transition.

President George Weah appointed producer Augustine Hamelberg as staff at the Liberian embassy in Berlin, Germany while Amos Williams was elected President of the Federation of Liberian Youth (FLY).

ECOWAS radio has reached out to LMD several times for technical experts to speak on different issues.

The station continues to live stream on: zeno.fm/ECOWAS-radio

Activity 1.5 Build strong, effective media outlets and associations

During the period, Internews provided specialized training for its media partners to lead activities under CLEAR. Bush Chicken, Daily Observer, LMC, LMDI, Local Voices, FeJal and YMA participated in training of trainers that enhanced their existing knowledge and skills, which gave them a comparative edge as leaders in Liberia's media sector.

Technical advice in the business of media has also been provided to the Observer, LVL, Bush Chicken and Sky TV as a follow-up to online media concepts they have pursued as a result of last year's Hackathon.

Budget Administration

On Tuesday March 5, LMD program and finance staff worked with the Liberia Media Center (LMC) to streamline program activities, ensuring they match with budget provision. LMC now has an activity-based budget to allow effective administration. The center will begin to roll out in-house journalism and business development training at partner stations across the country on electoral reform as part of the CLEAR project.

Daily Talk in Full Swing

With LMD support, Daily Talk is now in full swing. The unconventional chalkboard news outlet was destroyed last year by an unknown vehicle. Internews refurbished the board and



People plying the main Tubman Boulevard in Sinkor, Monrovia enjoy the Daily Talk for its certain kind and style of news

University students in Pennsylvania learned of LMD's intervention through a 2018 Internews story on the re-launch of Daily Talk. The Communication and Development course at Temple University in Philadelphia and a humanitarian journalism course at Villanova University included the role of the Daily Talk chalkboard news outlet in Monrovia as a case study for citizen engagement using unconventional communications and media tools.

Systems Management & Reporting Training

Internews held a one-day training for LMD partners on implementing, managing and reporting sub grant activities. The training in February focused on procedures, rules and regulations surrounding the use of USG funds to ensure compliance. This is in line with the USAID Mission Director's continued messaging at implementing partners meetings to focus on improved understanding and observance of USAID rules, regs and compliance to increasingly combat corruption and mis-appropriation of funds across the nation.



Participants at the one-day Systems Management & Reporting Training for LMD partners

launched it in December 2018 with US Ambassador to Liberia, Christine Elder, who expressed commitment to ensuring that the facility provides information to ordinary citizens.

Since then, Daily Talk has begun providing more news and information to the public.

"I'm a big fan of what you [Daily Talk] do - I brought my children here to see what he's doing; and all those who stop by here every day to try to learn and to try to be a more engaged citizen - so I thank you for letting us be partners with you today." - US Ambassador to Liberia, Christine Elder

The training included sessions on financial reporting, narrative reporting, vetting - preventing terrorist financing, as well as provisions of subgrant agreements. At the end of the training participants reported having an improved understanding of their responsibilities and requested more frequent training in finance and administration from Internews.

One participant, Daniel Nyakonah, PUL Secretary General remarked:

“The importance of training like this one can never be overemphasized because it not only reminds us of the requirement of effectively managing our subgrant, more so USG funds, it provides and enhances our knowledge and skills in ways that expand the potentials towards making our respectively organizations vibrant. Thanks, always, to Internews.”

Activity 1.6 Mapping of radio including Community Radio Stations (CRS)

On Internews’ request, the **Liberia Strategic Analysis (LSA)** in March [produced maps of key population centers](#) to enable LMD to provide technical advice to the **Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA)** on its FM broadcast license regulation process. These maps offer a “data-visualization” tool depicting several scenarios of population size being the organizing principle for a national spectrum management plan yet to be developed by the LTA. The purpose of the map is to help the LTA and stakeholders view spectrum management of available broadcast frequencies in the context of citizen’s information needs, rather than issuing licenses on a first come first served basis. These maps will be presented at a second key stakeholders meeting on the draft FM broadcast license regulations in April.

Although no new radio station was opened during the quarter, Internews has learned that a growing number of stations are now broadcasting 24 hours a day. Some of these stations include Prime FM, Kool FM, Joy FM, among others. International broadcasters like BBC, China Radio International (CRI) and Radio France International (RFI) also run 24 hours.

Most local stations in Liberia have been broadcasting only up to midnight.

Activity 1.7 Provide for equipment grants and maintenance

LMD issued a new generator to broadcast partner Radio Dukpa in Grand Bassa County. The generator will enhance the station’s broadcast operations, especially broadcast time.

With technical guidance from the LMD, the station carried out major renovation on its generator shed that included improved ventilation and installation of a fire extinguisher to avoid reoccurrence of the generator overheating and catching fire.

LMD also donated an antenna to broadcast partner Radio Piso in Grand Cape Mount County to enhance its broadcast quality and coverage.



Saah Hudson, business manager at Piso posted on Facebook:

“Thanks, Internews, our partner for the kind gesture by donating an antenna to the management of Radio Piso to improve our coverage in the implementation of our functions and responsibilities. We are grateful!!”

Objective Two: A plurality of voices is represented in Liberian media

Activity 2.1 Host Community Media Forums

Significant time and resources were invested by Internews in preparation for the rollout of community media forums across the country. Thirty of them will be conducted nationwide as part of CLEAR.

The CMFs will be facilitated by the Liberia Media for Democratic Initiatives (LMDI) through a grant; and former LMD staff, and veteran radio personality Torwon Solunteh-Browne on a consulting basis.

On March 8, Internews held a technical working session at LMDI with partners to develop acceptable themes for the CMFs. These themes, along with the LMD baseline assessments on media content and focus groups with citizens on perceptions of electoral reform were also presented to the USAID LAVI and NDI teams, as well as the ECC and NEC.

The goal of the CMFs is to bring citizens to engage in this national discourse on electoral reform issues.

Key CMF themes:

- Change of the current election date due to wet season
- Allotment of seats to women and other special population in the legislature
- Transfer of NEC adjudicatory power to an independent body or a tribunal
- Reduction in the tenure of elected officials
- Banning of elected officials from contesting another post while still maintaining previous elected post

CMF Format

The forums have been designed with flexibility to ensure engagement of local community is at the foreground of running these events. First, there will be a panel of at most four experts to lead discussions on the above themes. These experts include NEC magistrates, local leaders and the media facilitator who has undergone the LMD TOT training which provided in-depth education on electoral reform issues including presentations from LAVI, the NEC and the ECC.

Facilitators will work with Internews to identify resource persons. Citizens in the audience will be involved openly and randomly on their thoughts and suggestions on electoral reform. These thoughts and suggestions will later be narrowed down to a specific issue of interest they might want to further deliberate during the forums.

A report of key questions and themes coming out of these CMF's will be developed to share with USAID elections partners and CLEAR fellows.

Live Broadcast

Facilitators will work with community radio stations in the proximity of the CMFs to do live broadcasts from start to finish. There will also be live Facebook broadcasts of the CMFs where there is good internet access to reach bigger and diverse audiences.

Post CMF Broadcast

Discussions during the CMFs will be produced after the forums into exciting radio content that will be rebroadcast at later dates. This not only allows citizens to listen again to what was discussed, but also provides content for community radio stations. It allows citizens to continue conversations around electoral reform beyond the CMF day; and affords people that did not attend the CMFs to connect with the conversation. The rebroadcast will highlight key outcomes from each even.

Activity 2.2 Improve engagement with participatory radio formats via SMS platforms

Media partners are increasingly using Facebook Zero to engage with citizens and audiences as this represents a cheap and accessible mobile media communications avenue.

In step with this emerging pattern of consumption in Liberia, the LMD program has been working with media partners to help them take advantage of this platform to grow their audience, be more interactive and build their business. This has been incorporated into all LMD Hackathons and follow-up mentoring and technical advice.

In February, the **Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA)** issued an order in fulfilment of its previously announced decision of cancelling of **three days free calls and SMS** promotion by GSM companies. GSM companies have been offering unlimited calls, and SMS messages, at only one US dollar for three entire days.

LTA Order 0016-02-25-19 applies to all licensees that provide mobile voice call services and mobile data and internet access services. The full Order can be found on this [link](#). The LTA Order solidifies its intent to introduce price floors for mobile on-net voice and data services.

Abolishing the three days free call promotion consequently comes with cancelling free SMS. The population who think they will be stripped of an affordable service they've enjoyed over the years has condemned this move.

SMS has been one easy way citizens have been engaging their government through radio programs. All LMD partners are using SMS as alternative means for listeners to participate in news magazines and programs, especially when calls are often jammed during broadcasts and often poor GSM signal. In that instance, SMS has become effective.

The cancellation decision will come into full effect sometime in April or later.

Activity 2.3 Enhance coverage of rural issues at the national level

Two regional journalism training workshops were delivered during the quarter bringing together **31 reporters (26M, 5F)** in Bong, Nimba, Lofa, Grand Gedeh, River Gee, Maryland, and Grand Kru counties (see **Activity 3.1**).

Reporters will be covering electoral reform issues from a rural perspective, which will contribute to national discourse on electoral reform. Under CLEAR, these 31 reporters will be working with LMD staff to produce stories for both their rural audiences, but also for audiences at the national level. Stories will also be coming out of the CMFs.

Elections Promises Tracker

LMD program staff held two separate meetings with the Press & Public Affairs Bureau of the Liberian House of Representatives and Daily Observer newspaper over series of activities geared toward populating and popularizing the LMD-sponsored Elections Promises Tracker – (<http://liberiapromisetracker.com/>).

The tracker, managed by the Daily Observer newspaper, offers a portal for engagement between law makers and citizens in relation to news and information from lawmakers mainly around elections promises on development projects.

While still under-utilized due to the reticence of lawmakers to commit to promises in a static forum, the portal was developed out of the 2017 legislative elections; promises made by candidates who attended the debates and were eventually elected were extracted, documented and uploaded unto the portal.

Ideally the public and the media will use information on the portal to not only hold elected officials accountable, but to make informed decision on governance and democracy. Both urban and rural media will use the portal as source for news content.

Last year, the Press Bureau requested Internews to provide equipment and material support that will ensure the promises tracker remains viable and a trusted source of information empowering citizen participation in governance and democracy conversations. The equipment and material support will include desktop computers, basic printer, internet Wi-Fi portable modem and USB drive.

This activity is progressing slowly but surely, in step with the capacity of the Press Bureau and responsiveness of law makers to this initiative.

In addition, the LMD will support the Press Bureau to provide training to lawmakers' office chiefs of staff, resource officers and district coordinators as part of effort towards not only educating lawmakers on the importance of the tracker, but also increasing the pool of people generating verifiable information for the portal.

The second meeting was with Bai Best, managing director of the Liberia Observer Corporation, publisher of the Daily Observer newspaper. The meeting cemented previously discussed plans towards populating and making the portal useful in Liberia's democracy, rights and governance drive, especially from a citizen perspective.

Among other things, Mr. Best accepted a proposal from the Press Bureau for training lawmakers' staff both in Monrovia as well as constituency offices in the counties. These staffers will then aid Daily Observers as data and information miners to populate the portal and provide a much-needed platform for citizen engagement with lawmakers.

Daily Observer will also select from among its available resources a specific person responsible to liaise with the Press Bureau in ensuring the portal is populated, sustainably vital and remains a vibrant tool for democracy and governance in Liberia.

Activity 2.4 Support young citizen journalists



Six members of YMA at the press club curriculum development training

Apart from core CLEAR activities, supporting young citizen journalists is one LMD activity Internews emphasized this quarter.

Internews plans to train forty (40) student journalists from eight schools in Montserrado and Nimba counties.

To get this rolling, Youth Media Action (YMA), which Internews selected to lead its capacity

development activities with high school press clubs, began planning. Beneficiary schools were identified, and participant students vetted.

Training for student journalists was postponed because Internews needed to ensure training materials were relevant and fit for this purpose.

Therefore, LMD program staff rolled out two progressive institutional capacity-development and enhancement trainings for YMA. The first leg was a two-day intensive training on the progress of press club curriculum development. The training was rolled out in a fashion that allowed YMA staff to easily replicate similar processes in future tasks, providing transferable skills.

The curriculum is the first of its kind in Liberia. It includes modules on basic journalism, Facebook journalism, fake news and Freedom of Information. It also includes, for obvious reasons, Electoral Reform Reporting and Public Finance Reporting that focuses on CSDF - all simplified and tailored for high school students. These modules will be developed into a full and comprehensive training manual at the end of the LMD fiscal year.

The usefulness of the manual will span far beyond LMD support. The two-day training ran from March 7-8 for six participants (3M, 3F) at Internews head office.

Activity 2.6 Create a mentorship program for Women journalists

Under CLEAR, FeJAL concluded plans for the conduct of training and mentoring of women journalists, mainly from rural outlets. The training will focus on electoral reform reporting and other basic journalism skills.

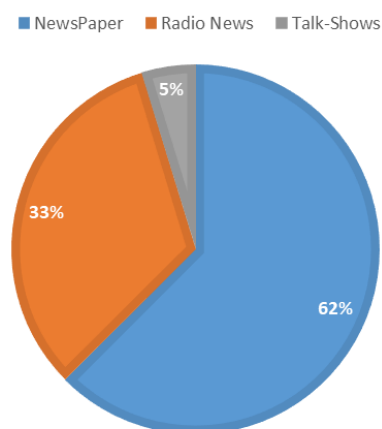
Earlier during this quarter, FeJAL benefitted from CLEAR ToT. The umbrella organization of women reporters will work with seven women fellows who will cover CMFs in Grand Cape Mount, Bomi, Gbarpolu, Margibi and Grand Bassa counties.

Activity 2.7 – Conduct media monitoring of targeted media outlets

In total, from January – March 2019, the Liberia Media Center coded 1,337 in content from print and electronic media.

Of this total, 438 news stories were coded from Sky FM, Radio Maria-Fabric FM, Power FM and ELBC while 836 stories were coded from FrontPage Africa, Daily Observer, New Dawn, New Democrat, and The News newspapers.

Sixty-three (63) editions of talk shows were also coded from New Dawn on Fabric 101.1FM; 50-50 on Sky 107.1 FM and Power Line on Power 93.3FM.



Objective Three: Professionalism of the media is improved

Activity 3.1 Develop Tailored Training Strategies for Core, Targeted Media Outlets

LMD made a significant shift in its training program. Almost all trainings conducted this quarter were tailored for enhanced professional development. The move towards enhanced professionalism is an indicator of the progress made at the basic level over the years. The Liberia Media Center has been providing training in basic journalism, especially at community radio stations. Therefore, there was not any basic journalism training this quarter.

On these enhanced professional trainings, LMD achieved 464 days. Here is a snapshot of some of the enhanced professional development trainings conducted this quarter.

CLEAR Training of Trainers for LMD partners

February 20-22, a three-day Training of Trainers was held at the LMC in Jallah Town. The workshop kicked off the first of the CLEAR training activities.

Twenty-Four participants (16M, 8F) were drawn from six partner organizations – LMC, Daily Observer, Bush Chicken, FeJAL, LVL, and LMDI – to acquire new knowledge about electoral reform in Liberia.



Participants at CLEAR ToT held at LMC

They also gained enhanced facilitation skills – since the intent was for them to transfer knowledge to local journalists and CLEAR fellows who will be specializing in electoral reform reporting. LMD Senior Community Radio Adviser Jefferson Massah and LMD Journalism Adviser Crispin Tulay facilitated sessions; LMD Journalism Quality & Reporting Adviser Samuka V. Konneh, representatives from USAID LAVI program, the Elections Coordinating Committee (ECC) and the National Elections Commission (NEC) attended.

Topics covered in the training included:

- Background of CLEAR and rationale for electoral reform in Liberia
- ECC – 2017 Elections Findings & Recommendation
- Presentation on LMD's baselines on CLEAR - media, citizens' perception
- NEC – Electoral Reform in Liberia
- NEC - Media Engagement & Communications Channels
- Difference between 'Elections Reporting' and 'Elections Reform' policy reporting
- PUL Codes – objective & balance reporting on electoral reforms issues
- Fake News & Facts Checking
- Brainstorming CMF Themes, among others

Training of Trainers of YMA Staff



ToT YMA Staff attended the ToT in March

Through this TOT the YMA staff themselves developed training content into PowerPoint presentations they would eventually use to train high school journalists.

The training was originally planned for two days, but just at the end of the first day, participants were so thrilled about the value it brought to them as an institution and the prospect of professional journalism in Liberia, that they requested LMD to extend the training for another two days – making it four days – which Internews obliged.

“We are forever grateful for the guidance and support, which were really needed. Before these trainings, most of our trainings were done without a training module or manual, which made it nearly impossible to implement our programs. Your timely support was crucial and will make significant difference in our future programs. Thanks a million again for your support with a sincere feeling of gratitude,” Varmah Kamara, executive director, YMA.

Collaboration on Human Rights Reporting

The Independent National Commission approached Internews on Human Rights (INCHR) of Liberia for a collaboration on human rights reporting for journalists. Two initial meetings were held. Veteran Liberian broadcast journalist Janet Johnson is director of the Department of Education, Training and Information at the INCHR.



L-R: Jannet Johnson, Bai Fahnbulleh of INHCR, and Samuka V. Konneh of Internews

Johnson represented the commission in these meetings alongside Mr. Bai Fahnbulleh, who is the Education Officer in the same department.

Several issues were proposed that the collaboration would cover, including:

- Human Trafficking;
- LGBT Rights;
- Bill of Rights, which includes the Universal declaration of Human Rights (UDHR);
- Convention on Civil and Political Rights;

- Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- Women Rights as in the African Charter on Human and People's Rights and CEDAW;
- Convention on Child Rights;
- Convention against Torture;
- Monitoring, investigating and reporting human rights;
- INCHR Human Rights Complaints Process; and
- Reporting People Living with Disabilities.

Depending on the progress of ongoing conversations between Internews and INCHR, Internews intends to widen the collaboration to include the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) based on their specialty in human trafficking. Also, LMD program staff will provide professional support in scaling the above listed issues so that training sessions are practical.

CLEAR In-house Journalism training

March 20-31, LMC covered six counties in hard-to-reach south-eastern Liberia – providing in-house training and mentoring at community radio stations.



Reporter from Peace FM Toe's Town, Grand Gedeh at the in-house training on electoral reform facilitated by LMC.

Thirty (24M, 6F) reporters benefitted from these training in Maryland, Grand Kru, Grand Gedeh, River-Gee, Sinoe, and River Cess counties. These 30 reporters did not include CLEAR journalism fellows.

The training focused on electoral reform reporting. Reporters learned how to develop stories on different thematic issues around electoral reform.

CLEAR Journalism Training for Fellows

In February, Internews conducted three days intensive training for CLEAR fellows at Shark's in Monrovia.

Twenty-four (24) journalists (14m, 6f) selected from radio, print and online media outlets across Liberia attended. The goal was to make CLEAR fellows leading electoral reform reporters.

They will ensure rural views and voices are included in national policy dialogue on electoral reform.



Reporter Mafanta Kromah from Bush Chicken presenting after group exercise

Internews is working with three main partners on the journalism component of CLEAR - Observer Daily newspaper, Bush Chicken and Local Voices Liberia. Daily Observer and Bush Chicken are managing eight fellows respectively – helping them produce and publish stories on electoral reform.

Local Voices Liberia is playing a middle role for sharing news content produced by both fellows and non-fellows.

It is anticipated that the 16 fellows will produce at least five stories each on electoral reform - totaling to 80 stories.

CLEAR Regional Journalism Training

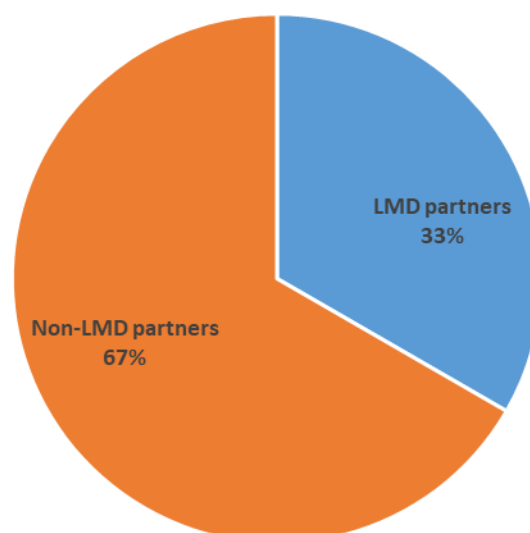
Apart from the journalism fellowship program, Internews is also collaborating with the LMC to deliver four regional workshops on electoral reform reporting. The initiative is targeting 60 journalists in addition to the 16 fellows. The CLEAR initiative has provided an opportunity to provide training beyond the usual LMD partners, especially rural journalists who often have limited access to professional journalism training.

This quarter, two regional trainings were held in Grand Gedeh and Nimba counties for 31 reporters from 29 radio stations, 10 of which are LMD partners.

The Grand Gedeh training was held in Zwedru from March 20-22 for 16 reporters (14m, 2f). Participants came from 14 radio stations in Maryland, River Gee, Sinoe, Grand Kru and Grand Gedeh counties.

The Nimba training was held in Ganta March 25-27. Fifteen reporters (12m, 3f) attended from 15 radio stations in Bong, Nimba and Lofa counties.

Participants of both regional workshops are currently pursuing story ideas. Reporters will receive direct mentoring support from LMD staff in story development.



Activity 3.2 Create a network of Media Resource Center

As of February 13, the regional MRC in Ganta has been in service for exactly one year. This day was also celebrated as World Radio Day. On February 2018, the LMD commissioned the Ganta regional Media Resource Center in collaboration with the Young Mens Christian Association (YMCA)-Liberia.

Since its commissioning, **1,419 visits** have been made to the MRC. The visits were to benefit training in various trainings such as introduction to basic computer office applications, system navigation, computer report writing, audio editing, internet browsing, and research; and news report filing, among others. Users of the MRC include rural and citizen journalists, students, youths, civil society organizations, among others.

Before the launch of the MRC, Ganta, which according to the 2008 census report has more than 40,000 people, had no such services.

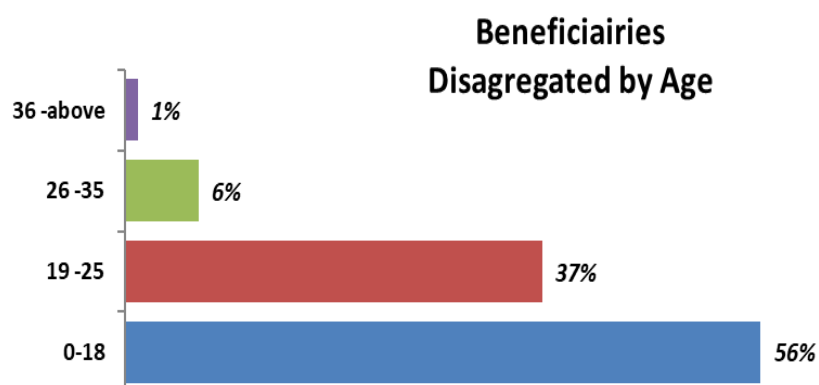
In March, the MRC and its host organization, YMCA, relocated to a new location. All MRC assets were safely moved to the new location. All technical works, including air conditioner units, computer installation, have been completed and are working perfectly. The center continues to provide free services in basic computer education. Next quarter, the internet will be restored.

Shortly after the relocation, LMD Community Radio Adviser, Armstrong Bee, held meetings with MRC staff aimed at creating awareness about the relocation of center as well as promote services being offered. MRC team members will now begin to reach out to community radio stations, school campuses, CSOs and CBOs to inform them about the relocation and services provided.

Before the relocation, 355 (311M, 44F) people accessed services from the center just this month.

There were more students benefitting; and they primarily came to develop or enhance their computer literacy. Roughly, 198 or 56% of beneficiaries were below the age of 18.

Furthermore, 130 or 37% were between the ages of 19-25, while 6% was between 26-35yrs. Only around 1% of beneficiaries was over 36 years old.



Activity 3.4 Manage a small subgrants pool to increase the quality and diversity of

During this quarter, seven small subgrants were awarded to the Center for Media Studies and Peacebuilding (CEMESP), Local Voices Liberia (LVL), Association of Community Radios (ALICOR), Center for Transparency and Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL), Daily Observer newspaper, Bush Chicken and the Female Journalists Association of Liberia (FeJAL).

1. Daily Observer – Provides oversight for eight rural journalism fellows from across the country. This includes oversight of story production.
2. Bush Chicken – Same as Daily Observer.
3. Local Voices Network – Play middle role between Daily Observer and Bush Chicken – mainly to share content from fellows and other journalists under CLEAR, increasing the content sharing of rural stories nationally.
4. FeJAL – Provide mentoring and coaching for seven female journalists under CLEAR. FeJAL will also collaborate with local consultant, Torwon Sulonteh Brown, to conduct CMFs in five counties.
5. CENTAL – Upgrade current budget information portal to include a detailed and exclusive CSDF tracker and train journalists in use of FOI to report on CSDF.
6. CEMESP – Work with IIC to enhance the Freedom of Information environment in Liberia
7. ALICOR – Run a community radio conference with the goal of educating radio stations about license requirements and reforms, as well as CLEAR and CSDF reporting.

Activity 3.5 Support sharing of content between community radio stations

As indicated in **Activity 2.3**, the LMD funded Elections Promises Tracker, when fully populated, will provide unrivalled content for media outlets, especially for community radio stations who serve as direct link between communities and politicians at the Capitol in the capital. Here is link to the portal - <http://liberiapromisetracker.com/>, hosted on Daily Observer's website.

CENTAL's budget portal is another great source for content generation and sharing. During the period, the portal was upgraded to include an exclusive CSDF Promises Tracker. See **Activity 5.5**.

Outlets in Monrovia have shared and used many stories on the Local Voices' (LVL) website. For example, in January, [FrontPage Africa \(FPA\) newspaper lifted a story](#) from LVL on a local pro-democracy and women rights advocacy group on women participating in politics in Liberia.

FPA also [lifted a story from](#) LVL on collapse of a major bridge that links River Gee and Grand Kru counties.

Electoral reform CMFs will also serve as great source of news that can be shared among community radio stations.

Activity 3.6 Use new technologies to innovate new media content and enhance inclusion

Local Voices saw an increase in its Facebook following by at least 50% – from 7000 to over 11,000 – because of the 2018 LMD Hackathon follow-up mentoring. LMD made a small investment of \$200 to promote the page, especially to increase following for USAID Development Matters Podcasts.

Post-Hackathon Support to Sky Communications

In January, two staff from Sky Communications (FM/TV) – Joseph Bobby Bryant and Princess Howard-Gould – benefitted from a remote mentoring session on effective use of social media, especially Facebook from LMD, facilitated by Internews' media development advisor Arwen Kidd. This follows their participation in the LMD 2018 Online Business Hackathon held in November with 53 other participants.

While Sky FM will still need additional support with its online programs, the station, because of the Hackathon, is making a significant impression on Facebook as a first timer. First, its popular talk show 50/50 is now broadcasting live on Facebook. One live broadcast with Representative Yekeh Kolubah currently has over **1,100 Comments and 27k Views**. The broadcast also had [775 Shares and 460 Reactions](#).

In addition to their Facebook presence, Sky will like to expand its online presence to include an interactive website, Twitter and Instagram. Staff at Sky do not currently understand how to fully use these platforms. LMD is exploring possible and feasible mechanisms to support Sky FM/TV on this regard.

Post Hackathon & Media Market Day Initiatives - Daily Observer

LMD support to Daily Observer also resulted in the development of a self-service advertising system that is more sophisticated and user friendly than the Executive Mansion site. This service on the Observer website was inspired by impassioned discussion at the 2018 Media Market Day about Liberia's Executive Mansion's website monopolizing advertising content,

such as jobs and tenders, the Daily Observer requested support from LMD to compete through the creation of an “Advertising Management Portal.” This has been added to build upon the existing Google Ads functions.

The system enables existing and would-be customers to submit their advertising materials online, choose a run duration, view prices per runtime, and instructions for payment, among others.

Daily Observer also now has “Job and Tenders Portal” that allows posting jobs and accepting online applications. Key functionality of the portal includes job vacancy content that is easier to negotiate online and offers some HR function for the client. The revised site not only makes it easy to search for jobs, it allows flexible management of job vacancy fields for both display and receiving applications (e.g. an automated function that sends online job applications to the designated HR e-mail for that job).

This traditional print media revenue stream transferred to online functionality will contribute to the independence and sustainability of the Daily Observer (i.e. additional revenue streams to augment the current ones).

Activity 3.8 Expand awards for media excellence

During the next quarter, the Press Union of Liberia (PUL) will announce members of its 2019 Excellence Award Committee. This year’s event will be held May.

Since the inception of the LMD program, Internews continues to provide technical support to the PUL. Last year, LMD provided advice to help PUL publicize the awards more widely and engage interest beyond the media sector, including sponsorship of sector-specific awards such as health, gender, and CSDF reporting.

This year, LMD is contemplating on sponsoring some awards for excellent reporting, especially on electoral reform themes under the CLEAR activity.

Activity 3.9 Support retention in the journalism field

CLEAR fellows will see their work published more broadly than possible before. This increased profile of rural reporters enables them to gain more professional experience and exposure, leading to retention in the field and the opportunity for increased “stringer” work.

Voice of Grand Kru recruited five (5) district correspondents to file reports from communities. Internews regional CRA Sonitta Morris is planning to conduct basic journalism training for these new correspondents.

Training of forty (40) student journalists from eight schools in Montserrado and Nimba counties as indicated in **Activity 2.4** is part of LMD’s support towards retention in the field of journalism in Liberia. These student journalists will see journalists as a future profession and begin to fill the vacuum created by practicing journalists who are deciding to move on to other professional careers, like public relations.

The Training of Trainers for YMA is also in the spirit of encouraging retention. To get this rolling, YMA, has already identified participants who will benefit from the training.

Drop-In Facility for LMD partners

For the second quarter running, the LMD Drop-In Facility remains open to partners. Bush Chicken LVL and YMA continue to use these facilities as needed. This also enables ready access to LMD staff for technical advice on program activities.

CLEAR Reporting Fellowship

In addition to the 16 fellows, many more journalists are benefitting from training under CLEAR. These trainings, alongside mentorship from Bush Chicken, Daily Observer and Local Voices, come with some small financial incentives for reporters who are primarily volunteers at community radio stations and can barely receive stipends or salaries. This has increased their motivation towards remaining in the media to serve their communities. The general economy of the media in Liberia contributes to high attrition.

Objective Four: Strengthened normative-legal environment for a freer media

Activity 4.1 Ensure key associations are able to resolve industry issues and effectively engage in advocacy and collective action

During the quarter Internews worked with the Liberia Telecommunications Authority (LTA) and the Press Union of Liberia in leading stakeholder engagements around a draft regulation on FM radio frequency and spectrum management.

The regulation was developed by the LTA and aimed to 1) improve the spectrum management of radio frequencies required for the operation of FM broadcast services in Liberia, and 2) establish and enforce adherence to minimum technical standards relative to power limitations, coverage, interference, technical installation, environmental and safety concerns.

LMD led a one-day stakeholder engagement March 14 with the LTA, bringing together 29 (21M, 8F) participants at Bella Cassa Hotel in Monrovia, including LTA commissioners led by chair Irvin Browne. Also attending were Deputy Information Minister for Technical Services Boakai M. Fofana and others from the Ministry of Information, Culture Affairs and Tourism (MICAT), LMD program staff, Judge Eva Mappy-Morgan of the commercial court, representative from the Liberia Revenue Authority (LRA), heads of media institutions, journalists, among others.

LMD is now empowering PUL to lead future stakeholder engagements around this draft FM regulation. Such support allows PUL to step up to a leadership role in educating the sector on handling industry issues.

Activity 4.2 Media and public information related policies and legislation

On February 28, Liberian president George M. Weah finally signed into law the **Kamara Abdullah Kamara (KAK) Act of Press Freedom**. The newly signed Act amends Chapter 11 sections 11.11, 11.12 & 11.14 of the penal law of Liberia aimed at decriminalizing defamation.

The president's signing follows a unanimous vote by the Liberian Senate on February 7, 2019, and following a public hearing in committee room, involving Senate Committee on Information, Broadcasting, Culture, and Tourism.

"Free speech and media freedom advocates have hailed the president for demonstrating genuine commitment to protecting the basic tenets of Liberia's fledgling democracy. The KAK Act of Press Freedom also strengthens and actualizes Liberia's commitment to several legal instruments signed unto, such as Freedom of Information Act, the Table Mountain Declaration, among others." - Statement from the Executive Mansion

Ahead of this, the LMD program supported series of efforts to achieve this milestone in media reform. From working sessions to public hearings, to hiring of expert support, LMD was continuously involved. Internews considers this a success for LMD efforts since 2016.

See links to the story:

- <https://www.liberianobserver.com/news/senate-passes-kak-act-of-press-freedom/>
- <https://allafrica.com/stories/201807050367.html>

January 29, 2019 LMD facilitated a Stakeholders Technical Working Session on the construction and elements of the bill. The session was held at the Institute for Constitutional Research, Policy and Strategic Development (ICRPSD) with 11 (9M, F2F) participants. Law reform expert Dr. Jallah Barbu served as LMD lead facilitator.

Activity 4.3 Defend journalists' rights and explore a possible media defence fund

Internews worked with Liberia's Judiciary to plan two specialized trainings that will reduce the chances of journalists coming in conflict with the law. The special judicial reporting training for journalists will expose them to everything about the Liberian judicial and court systems. The training targets around 30 journalists and public information officers. LMD conducted a training needs assessment.

A second set of specialized training will be held for public defenders at the Judiciary, which will enhance lawyers' knowledge about the role of the media, and significantly introduce them to media law.

Liberia's Chief Justice His Honor Francis S. Korkpor, Sr. requested these specialized trainings at a meeting with the LMD COP and Chief Justice of the Commercial Court Judge Mappy Morgan in December 2018.

The objective of the public defenders' curriculum is to introduce new learning and increase lawyers' skill in understanding the work and boundaries of the media in the context of rule of law and national development. This supports LMD's goal of strengthening a normative legal environment for a freer media.

The curriculum includes four broad courses:

- 215-Evolution and Introduction to Media Law;
- 216-Media Law and Ethics;
- 317-Applied Media Law I; and
- 318-Applied Media Law II.

On the flipside, the National Media Council received two complaints on the performance of journalists during the period.

Liberia's deputy information minister for public affairs, Eugene Fahngon, filed one complaint, against Mr. Henry Costa of Roots FM. On February 21, Minister Fahngon accused Mr. Costa of making "reckless and threatening statements against the Government of Liberia and the President" during a live Facebook broadcast on February 18.

The NMC cited both parties to a hearing; but Minister Fahngon could not attend. He wrote a formal communication expressing regret for not attending and requesting the hearing be rescheduled.



L-R: FPA's Lennart Dodoo & Alaska Moore Johnson; and Mr. Dao R. Freeman & lawyer

On February 7, the council adjudicated (through mediation) a complaint filed against FrontPage Africa newspaper by Mr. Dao Richelleu Freeman on January 14.

Mr. Freeman accused FPA of writing “defamatory and libelous comments” against him in a story that was published on November 12, 2018 captioned: “Liberia’s

Former Police Academy Chief ‘Crying Witch Hunt’ After Facing Penalty for Corruption.”

The NMC was established with LMD and the PUL support to find out-of-court settlements to disputes and conflicts arising from the works of journalists, especially in a country where court proceedings can be enduring; and anti-speech laws are often used by politicians to strangle media.

While the NCM is succeeding to amicably resolve conflicts in the media, the PUL continues to systematically track attacks, direct and/or indirect, against journalists and the media.

Through various kinds of technical and financial supports from the LMD, the Union continues to maintain independence and work toward maturity in advocating for a freer media environment in Liberia – doing so through seeking explanations, condemning and warning against further unfriendly actions against journalists in Liberia.

This quarter, the PUL Alert Officer tracked seven major attacks against the media.

Banning of Legislative Reporters by the House of Representatives

In February, House Speaker Dr. Bofhal Chambers revoked the accreditation of several legislative reporters, including the president of the Legislative Press Pool (LEGISPOL), Musa M. B. Kenneh. The director of the Press & Public Bureau, Isaac G. Reed, who issued the revocation, said the decision was meant to replace long serving reporters with new ones. He described long serving reporters assigned at the House of Representatives as “repetitive.”

Several institutions and individuals condemned the decision by the House of Representatives. PUL and the International Committee on the Right of Journalists issued statements. The decision was later rescinded, and reporters were allowed to resume covering the House of Representatives.

Two Burglaries at Roots FM

On February 15, the Liberia National Police deployed officers at LoneStar/MTN facility, where Roots 102.7 FM houses its transmitter. This deployment followed two reported incidents of attacks on the radio station by unknown persons in just a month. Roots FM owner, Henry Costa, accused agents of government for the attacks, but government denied any part. Costa is a

famous radio talk show host, who is seen as anti-establishment. Costa alleges that attackers took away transmitters along with other equipment. A police investigation is ongoing.

Local media extensively reported on the Roots FM attack. Here are some links to publications.

- **FrontPage Africa** - [Liberia: Henry Costa's Roots FM 102.7 Attacked Again; Transmitters Taken Away](#)
- **Daily Observer newspaper** - [Atty. Woods Wants Gov't Investigate Attack on Roots FM](#)
- **Bush Chicken** - [Roots FM Resumes Broadcast as Gov't Denies Involvement in Recent Attack](#)

The Inquirer newspaper, which is not currently online, also published a story on the situation.

Liberty Radio Burglarized, Equipment Stolen

Around 2 am on February 23, unknown persons broke into Liberty Radio station and took away some equipment, causing the station to shut down for a couple of weeks. The attack was reported to the police, who deployed four officers to the crime scene. Police investigated private security guards at the station but did not establish any link with the crime.

Radio Margibi Attacked by Public Official

This station, outside Monrovia, accused Mr. S. Roye Browne, Labor Commissioner of Lower Margibi County, for banging on its door and windows and later switching off the power supply at 6:20 am on Monday, March 4.

Mr. Browne claims the stations aired a leak audio of him allegedly soliciting bribes from a foreign businessperson.

Joy FM's Antenna Cut During Live Broadcast

The premises of Joy FM radio station in Monrovia was attacked, again by unknown individuals in the early morning hours of Tuesday, March 5. The attackers cut and disconnected the radio's transmission cable with hard saw during broadcast - causing shock in the transmitter and broadcast antenna. [The incident occurred at 1:52am.](#)

International media rights organization **Reporters Without Borders** [issued a statement](#) condemning the attack.

Lawsuits against journalists, media

On February 14, businessperson Tony Lawal filed a lawsuit against journalist Abraham Morris and his employer, In-Profile Daily newspaper, over a publication captioned: "LACC Indicttee Awarded New Road Contract." The story was published February 8, claiming that Mr. Lawal's



company, East International, was indicted for Economic Crimes by the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission (LACC), but still was awarded a lucrative road construction contract by the Ministry of Public Works.

However, the matter was withdrawn from court by the PUL for mediation. Both parties were satisfied with the PUL intervention and the matter is now settled.

In the same month, Mr. Lawal also sued journalists Sekou Sheriff and Obed Gibah and their employer, Joy FM, for lifting the above cited story from the In-profile Daily. The reporters continually ran the story on their early morning talk show.

GSM Company Threatens RBS

The management of the Rivercess Broadcasting Service (RBS) reported that Orange GSM threatened it with disconnection from power supply source if it did not play the company's adverts at least 25 times per day – at least 750 plays a month. However, the station says it is difficult to play that number of adverts from a single advertiser because of other engagements on its airwaves. The station, like many others, relies on electricity provided by GSM companies. Because it is the only available power supply source, the station will either have to accept the huge demand or risk being disconnected.

Activity 4.4 Build demand for media reform

As briefly indicated in **Activity 4.1**, Internews continued engagement with LTA on FM regulation and spectrum management is critical to the LMD program because of correlation to program objectives, especially on media reform.

The LTA FM regulation, if implemented effectively and with appropriate consultation, could contribute to media sustainability, improve universal access to several information channels for all citizens, ensure professional broadcast standards, and promote spectrum management and a safer and freer environment for media to practice in the interest of Liberian citizens.

Participants at the March stakeholder engagement (**Activity 4.1**) were concerned about the process and implementation of the regulation.



Some recommendations from stakeholders included:

- Transparency in the licensing process;
- Dissemination of public information and education about the process;
- Period of amnesty considering the lack of enforcement of previous regulations and lack of clarity on compliance;
- Proper planning and transitioning; and
- Special citations in the regulations to address needs of underserved communities that needed access to information.

Media Watch program

Light TV in January began broadcasting on its network the LMD-sponsored Media Watch program. Media Watch is produced monthly as a platform for citizens-stakeholders' engagement on trending issues reported by the media. In the next quarter, the program focus will shift towards regulatory reform.

Objective Five: Strengthened Information Commission

Activity 5.1 Build the capacity of the Information Commission so that it can enforce, oversee, and monitor the implementation of Liberia's FOI Act

Internews co-sponsored Cllr. M. Bedor-Wla Freeman, chairperson of the Independent Information Commission (IIC) of Liberia to attend the 11th International Conference of Information Commissioners (ICIC) in South Africa. The theme for this conference was “International cooperation to strengthen public access to information.”

The ICIC provides for information commissioners and ombudsmen from across the globe to meet regularly to discuss topical issues related to the protection and promotion of the right to public information for the benefit of citizens. This year's event was organized by the Information Regulator of South Africa in partnership with the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Pretoria from March 10-13, 2019 at the Vodacom Commercial Park in Johannesburg.

Internews and IIC agreed to organize training or working sessions with public information officers to share knowledge, experience and skill gained from the Johannesburg conference.

At the end of the training, Commissioner Freeman was named to the five-member steering committee of the newly formed Network of Information Commissioners of Africa – thanks to the lobbying support of another LMD partner, Center for Media Studies and Peacebuilding (CEMESP).

Activity 5.2 Mentor Information Officers to more effectively interact with colleagues in their ministries to improve response to FOI requests

On March 25, the Center for Transparency & Accountability in Liberia (CENTAL) held a mentoring session with four journalists and two of its staff. The four journalists have been part of LMD FOI and other programs in previous years. The reporters will produce stories on the County Social Development Funds (CSDF) using FOI.

Gerald Yeakula, CENTAL's Program Manager, facilitated the session. Reporters James Karimu of Prime FM and Alvin Worzi of Daily Observer newspaper gave updates from their reporting visits in Grand Cape Mount and Nimba counties respectively. James is following community projects done by Sime Darby, a Malaysian oil palm concession in Grand Cape Mount while Alvin is following projects undertaken by Arcelor Mittal, the world's biggest steel company who has an iron ore concession in Nimba.

Activity 5.3 Promote public demand for Freedom of Information

Regional seminars on CSDF and FOI

In March, senior program staff from the LMD, LAVI and LEGIT convened a meeting at LAVI's office to discuss plans for the holding of three regional seminars in Nimba, Bong and Grand Gedeh counties on the CSDF and Freedom of Information (FOI). The seminars will discuss issues around CSDF and how FOI can be used as an effective tool to empower citizens with useful information that will allow informed participation in national conversations around democracy, rights and governance.

The three USAID-funded programs will mobilize participants – LMD focuses on journalists while LAVI and LEGIT will respectively focus on civil society and local government officials.

It is most likely the seminars will commence in the next quarter, targeting around Ninety (90) participants in total.

2019 International Right to Know Day

As reported in the previous quarter, CEMESP will work with IIC, The Carter Center (TCC) and Internews to organize and promote FOI seminar through the 2019 UNESCO International Day for the Universal Access to Information. This annual event brings together media workers, PIOs and government leaders to review the current state of the FOI mechanisms and identify ways to improve use of this tool by both government and media especially in accessing information on public finance.

Activity 5.4 Ensure media professionals know how to file and follow up on FOI requests

Internews submitted its existing FOI Request Tracker to CEMESP. The tracker was developed two years ago as part of LMD Freedom of Information Investigative & Mentoring activity. CEMESP started to review the tracker and developed a draft plan of action.

Next quarter, CEMESP will begin to liaise with public information officers (PIOs), journalists and public offices on the status of previously filed FOI requests; and potentially coordinate responses.

Additionally, and based on the result of the review of the request tracker, CEMESP will work with the IIC and Internews to hold a tailored training for journalists and maybe PIOs on the use of FOI.

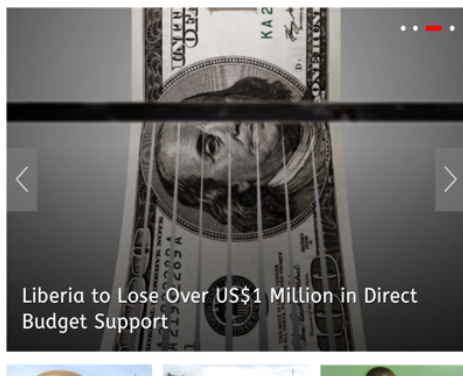
CEMESP is serving as an independent advocacy voice and a bridge between journalists, public officials, IIC and Internews from filing of FOI requests to responding, hearing appeals as well as documenting experiences. CEMESP will also hold press conferences on the status of FOI from a civil society perspective.

Activity 5.5 Liberia Media Budget Monitoring for Accountability (LMBMA) Activity

LMD and CENTAL developed first the draft of an exclusive tracker on CSDF that will be imbedded on the existing web portal on national budget information. Developers are currently working on the site to include the tracker, so there could be intermittent technical glitches.

The tracker will include relevant information pertaining to CSDF such as name of county, project description, specific project location, date of approval by Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP), date of approval at community level, overall project cost, initial disbursement, disbursement date and balance allocation. It will also track implementation status of CSDF projects – whether it has started yet, stalled or complete.

With such information, journalists now have a resource repository to aid their investigations and reporting; and citizens would be empowered to ask the right questions and follow public spending on community projects.



LATEST NEWS

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RANDOM POSTS



'Gov't Must Educate Citizens on EU Budget Support'

"PRO-POOR OR STAY F analysis of the Draft B"



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Presiden Poor Spe Achieve?

CENTAL issues state...

Other upgrades were done on the portal, including enhanced visibility (SEO) in search engines such as Google. Web subscription was also renewed.

In the next quarter, CENTAL will engage local governments in Montserrado, Bong, Nimba, Grand Bassa, and Margibi counties as well as the Ministries of Internal Affairs and Finance & Development Planning on the newly developed exclusive CSDF Tracker.

These engagements will form part of preliminary efforts towards a public launch of the tracker.

SECTION 4: Activities in the Next Quarter (January - March 2019)

Below is a summary of the activities planned for the coming quarter:

Objective 1: Increased sustainability of media houses

- **LMC business trainers** continue to provide in-house training to the LMD partner radio stations to build their sustainability based on their own local market opportunities.
- **Media Market Day** – follow on mentoring of media outlets through sharing marketing plans used in other countries to secure government and business buy-in using GeoPoll ratings data.
- **ALICOR** plans their elections and a complimentary training workshop ideally on FM Licence Reg Reform and perhaps CSDF community radio reporting – yet to be determined.
- Work with **LMC to upgrade four stations off-air** using IREX equipment and additional new equipment needed to compliment IREX remaining radio equipment. Continued development of a logbook of most frequent technical issues.

Objective 2: A plurality of voices is represented in Liberian media

- **Local Voices Liberia** will launch its podcast series using content from the 3 Development Matters CMFs.
- **Local Voices Liberia** will be trained in website and Facebook enhancement to increase audience reach and in turn increase in content sharing of rural issues nationally and internationally
- **CLEAR fellowship** of 16 rural reporters will continue to publish stories with a rural perspective.
- **FeJAL** will provide training and tracking of media outlets use of the women's expert contact list and provide training to women journalists on CLEAR priorities
- Continue monitoring and review of monthly **media coding by LMC team**.

Objective 3: Professionalism of the media is improved

- **LMC trainers** continue to roll out in-house training at LMD partner radio stations focused on CLEAR reporting using improved research skills and FOI tools.
- Work with YMCA and LMC to develop expected goals and targets for the Ganta MRC, with the goal of delivering **training curriculum** linked to a **sustainability plan**.
- Online Media as a business **Hackathon** – this year will focus on building audiences through what is emerging to be the most popular platforms in Liberia Facebook and YouTube. This also includes continued follow-up technical support to Observer, Bush Chicken, LVL, ALICOR and Light TV based on concepts developed for online growth through the 2018 Hackathon.

Objective 4: Strengthened normative-legal enabling environment for freer media

- Work with PUL and the NMC to **enhance the functioning of the NMC** and address backlog of complaints.
- Work with **ALICOR to review its constitution** and build this review into a conference at which elections will be held.
- Provide support to PUL to **track legal cases involving freedom of expression** and regulation issues, track and analyse attacks and/or threats against the media.
- Launch **Light TV Media Watch program**
- **Train public defenders in media law** to be able to represent media in media related court cases
- **Train journalists in improved court reporting with the JTI**
- Support PUL and the LTA to educate stakeholders about the **FM licence revisions**

Objective 5: Strengthened Information Commission (IIC)

- Continue to provide technical advice to the IIC in the management of FOI appeals, **conduct an assessment of the IIC process** for handling appeals and make recommendations for improvements.
- Continue the FOI work through **the CLEAR activity** with journalism fellows, mentees and PIOs, with a focus on public finance reporting.
- Expand the **CENTAL CSDF web-portal** to improve accountability of CSDF funds
- Deliver **three rural workshops on CSDF**, incorporating FOI principals in collaboration with the LAVI and LEGIT programs.

SECTION 5: Monitoring and Evaluation

The Liberia Media Development program exceeded targets of **seven of the 20 indicators**. See Performance Tracking Table. In Quarter 3, LMD will roll out basic data extraction training for LMC media monitors to enable them to get the first set of ‘Media Barometer’ report on media houses.

PERFORMANCE TRACKING TABLE FOR LMD PROGRAM (FY 2019)

| LMD Performance Management Plan Indicators and Targets Matrix. Performance indicators and types | Baseline Value | Targets | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total or Cumulative | Reporting Period | Comments |
|---|----------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------|------------------|---|
| Intermediate Result 1: Increased sustainability of media houses (Both Outlet and Associations) | | | | | | | | | |
| Indicator 1.1: Number of Non- state news outlets assisted by USG (*F*: DR.5.3-1). | 18 | 21 | 65 | 48 | N/A | N/A | 92 | Quarter | In addition to the 21 regular LMD partners, additional 27 media outlets benefited from LMD-supported activities: Technical Working Session on the construction and elements the repeal bill, CLEAR TOT Workshop for Media Partners, Clear Journalism Fellowship Training, Sub-Grantee Narrative and Financial Reporting Training, School Press Club Curriculum Development for YMA, Youth Media Action TOT Workshop, CLEAR Regional Journalism Training, LMC In-House CLEAR radio station training, and LMC Business Management and Mentoring training. |
| Indicator 1.2: Number of business improvements institutionalized at supported outlets. | 0 | 10 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Annual | Annual Indicator |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|--|
| Indicator 1.3: Number of USG-assisted Media-Sector CSOs and Institutions that serve to strengthen the independent media or journalists (*F*-DR.5.3-2). | 5 | 10 | 11 | 12 | N/A | N/A | 12 | Quarter | Institutions that benefited from the USG support during this reporting period include: FeJAL (CLEAR Activity), CENTAL (budget Portal), Daily Observer (Small Grants: Promises Tracker and CLEAR), PUL (regular LMD Partner), LMC (Regular LMD Partner), IIC (capacity through CEMESP), Local Voices Liberia (CLEAR Activity), YMCA (Ganta MRC), LMDI (CLEAR CMFs), ALICOR (Hackathon and CLEAR), Bush Chicken (CLEAR Activity), and Youth Media Action (High School Press Club Development), CEMESP (IIC support). |
| Indicator 1.4: Percent of population with access to independent media sources. | 80% | 80% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Annual | Annual Indicator |
| Intermediate Results 2: Plurality of Voices represented in Liberia Media | | | | | | | | | |
| Indicator 2.1: Number of women journalists mentored. | 0 | 20 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Annual | Annual Indicator |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|---|
| Indicator 2.2: Number of young citizen journalists trained. | 0 | 20 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Annual | Annual Indicator |
| Indicator 2.3: Number of community media forums conducted | 0 | 30 | 2 | 0 | N/A | N/A | 2 | Quarter | Preparations of TOT and Regional trainings in CLEAR for the Community Media Forums across the country was held. |
| Indicator 2.4: Percentage of coverage of women and youth issues in national media. | 3% | 20% | 13% | 18% | N/A | N/A | N/A | Quarter | In quarter two 2019, the LMC report captures 18% on aggregate of women and youth issues in national media. Please see LMC media monitoring report. |
| Indicator 2.5: Percentage of local (outside the capital) news coverage in national media. | 17% | 20% | 16% | 16% | N/A | N/A | N/A | Quarter | In quarter two 2019, LMC report captures 16% on aggregate of local issues news capture in national media. Please see LMC media monitoring report. |
| Intermediate Results 3: Improved Quality of media, including wider adherence to professional standards of journalism | | | | | | | | | |
| Indicator 3.1: Number of training days provided to journalists with USG assistance, measured by person-days of training (*F*: DR-5.2-1). | 598 | 1500 | 416 | 464 | N/A | N/A | 880 | Quarter | Training days achieved for Q2 is 464 measured by person-days. Training and Mentoring captures for Quarter One: Technical Working Session to repeal law (10 days); CLEAR TOT for Media Partners (69 days), CLEAR Journalism Fellowship Training (84 days), Sub-Grantee financial and |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|----------------|---|
| | | | | | | | | | Narrative Reporting Training (18 days), School Press Club Curriculum Development Training (12 training days); Youth Media Action TOT workshop (40 days), CLEAR Regional Journalism Training-Zwedru (48 days), CLEAR Regional Journalism Training-Sanniquellie (90), LMC Business Management training and mentoring (45 days), and LMC community radio stations In-house training (48 days). |
| Indicator 3.2: Percentage of randomly selected newspaper articles and radio programs that are accurate and balanced. | 34% | 55% | 61% | 65% | N/A | N/A | N/A | Quarter | In quarter two 2019, LMC report captures 42% on aggregate of randomly selected newspaper articles and radio programs on accurate and balanced. Please see LMC media monitoring report. |
| Indicator 3.3: Number of complaints successfully handled by the Complaints Committee. | 0 | 5 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Annual | Annual Indicator |
| Indicator 3.4: Percent of Liberian public who rate media as accurate and balanced. | 55% | 65% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Annual | Annual Indicator |

| Intermediate Results 4: Strengthened normative-legal enabling environment for freer media | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|---|
| Indicator 4.1: Number of participants at training and advocacy events on legal issues | 70 | 40 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Annual | Annual Indicator |
| Indicator 4.2: Number of civil society organizations (CSOs) receiving USG assistance engaged in advocacy (*F*: DR-4.2-2) | 5 | 3 | 6 | 7 | N/A | N/A | N/A | Quarter | LMDI, FeJAL, CEMESP, CENTAL, PUL, Local Voices, and YMA |
| Indicator 4.3: Number of journalists receiving direct legal aid | 0 | 5 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Annual | Annual Indicator |
| Indicator 4.4: Number of positive legislative and regulatory actions influenced by media associations and CSOs | 1 | 2 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Annual | Annual Indicator |
| Intermediate Results 5: Strengthened information commission to be able to respond rapidly to requests from citizens and media establishments. | | | | | | | | | |
| Indicator 5.1: Percent of Liberian who believe media is an effective platform for citizen engagement in policy-making. | 83% | 80% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Annual | Annual Indicator |

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|------------------|
| Indicator 5.2: Number of FOI request made by journalist to Government Agencies that lead to related stories to be produced/published. | 0 | 20 | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Annual | Annual Indicator |
| Indicator 5.3: Percent of Liberians who believe media is an effective tool for making GOL budget information available to the general public. (*) | 42.5 | 0% | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | Annual | Annual Indicator |